DRAFT
Honey Creek Conservation Area

Ten-Year Area Management Plan

FY 2017-2026

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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Honey Creek Conservation Area, # 6127
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1961
- **Acreage:** 1,448 acres
- **County:** Andrew
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose:**
  - **A. Strategic Direction**
    The purpose of the Honey Creek Conservation Area (CA) is to provide quality sport fishing, deer and turkey hunting opportunities and conserve non-game woodland/forest species and their habitats through sound management.
  - **B. Desired Future Condition**
    Maintain a healthy and sustainable woodland and forest complex along with compatible recreational opportunities.
  - **C. Federal Aid Statement**
    N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. <u>Special Considerations</u>

A. Priority Areas: None

B. Natural Areas: None

II. <u>Important Natural Features and Resources</u>

A. Species of Conservation Concern: Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.

B. Caves: None

C. Springs: None

D. Streams/Rivers: 1.4 miles of the Nodaway River

E. Other: The Mesic Loess/Glacial Till Forest natural community contains mesophytic or mixed hardwood forest with multiple vertical layers. The canopy is typically composed of a few dominant tree species with several tree species co-dominant or in an intermediate position. Canopy dominants range from 90 to 130 feet tall with overlapping and spreading crowns and nearly complete canopy closure. A sub-canopy of short stature trees (15 to 30 feet) is present. The understory is composed of shade-tolerant shrubs, small trees and canopy saplings (5 to 10 feet) and woody vines are often interlaced between canopy trees. The ground layer consists of shrubs, many vernal herbs, ferns and patchy scatterings

of mosses and fungi. Decaying logs and leaf litter debris often covered in mosses, liverworts and fungi characterize the forest floor.

The mesic loess/glacial till forest occurs on lower back slopes, foot slopes, toe slopes and in ravines in breaks and hills associated with landscapes that are highly dissected by streams. They are gently sloping to steep (3 to 35 percent), typically with north and east aspects. Soils are moderately-well to well-drained and very deep (>60 inches) with a strongly acid to neutral soil reaction (5.1-7.3). They have a high fertility and formed in loess glacial till or loess over glacial till. Silty loam and silty clay loam textures dominate soils developed in loess while silty loams and clayey loams dominate glacial till soils. The soils overlay Pennsylvanian-age formations excepting Cretaceous and Tertiary formations in the Crowley's Ridge Subsection (Nelson, 2010).

III. Existing Infrastructure

- Nine campsites, including nine campfire rings, 11 hitch rails
- One privy, American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible
- Four picnic tables
- Two multi-use (hike/bike/horse) trails: Trail A (5.5 miles) and Trail B (7.5 miles), both rated difficult
- Four fishless ponds (4 acres)
- 10 parking lots, one ADA-accessible

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations: None

B. Federal Interest: Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

C. Easements: None

D. Cultural Resources Findings: No known cultural resources.

E. Endangered Species: None observed.

F. Boundary Issues: None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Enhance quality deer and turkey populations on the area.
2) Increase diversity of quality native vegetation.
3) Remove invasive vegetation.
4) Enhance woodland and forest habitats.

Management Objective 1: Manage for quality deer and turkey populations on the area.

Strategy 1: Provide diverse habitat for deer and turkey populations. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Manage for diverse native vegetation and agricultural food sources. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Implement annual disturbances to establish and maintain native vegetation.

Strategy 1: Implement management practices that provide disturbance and support quality forage. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Treat invasive vegetation with herbicides, mechanical treatments, and prescribed fire. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Manage for a healthy and sustainable mixture of woodland and forest habitats.

Strategy 1: Implement the Honey Creek Forest Resource Management Plan (Missouri Department of Conservation, 1995), including forest thinning. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Monitor woodlands and forests for invasive vegetation, diseases, and insects. Treat undesirable vegetation and pests to control spread. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Conduct scheduled forest inventory in 2017. (Forestry)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Manage riparian corridor.

Management Objective 1: Manage a healthy and sustainable riparian corridor along the 1.4 miles of the Nodaway River.

Strategy 1: Maintain the current 100-foot riparian buffer on the Nodaway River. (Wildlife)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Maintain area infrastructure for public use and enjoyment of the area's resources.
2) Continually evaluate area regulations.

Management Objective 1: Maintain infrastructure and evaluate area regulations to provide public access to the area's natural resources and recreational opportunities (hunting, horseback riding, camping, hiking and nature viewing). (Wildlife)

Strategy 1: As needed, maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines. (Wildlife)
Strategy 2: Annually evaluate area regulations. (Wildlife)
Strategy 3: Maintain access to area. (Wildlife)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Consider acquisition of land.

Lands Proposed for Acquisition:

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Terrestrial Resource Management										
Objective 3										
Strategy 3	X									

APPENDICES

Area Background:
Honey Creek is located approximately 20 miles north of St. Joseph and 65 miles north of Kansas City in Andrew County. Honey Creek CA was purchased by the Department in 1961.

Currently, farming and haying complement more intensive habitat development such as tree, shrub, and grass plantings, prescribed burning, disking, and timber management.

The area provides good fishing opportunities along approximately 1.4 miles of the Nodaway River on the southwest corner of the area. The Honey Creek CA is managed for multiple wildlife species as well as numerous recreational uses because of its large size and diversity of habitats.

Numerous woodland species of wildlife can be found on Honey Creek CA, including turkey, squirrel, raccoons, deer, foxes, and numerous bird species.

Approximately 75 percent of Honey Creek CA is currently covered in trees (mixed oak-hickory). Two percent of the area includes black walnut and other tree plantations. The remaining acres are old fields, wildlife food plots, open ridge-tops, agriculture, and watering holes.

The area is open to the public from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Special facilities include the multi-use trail and foot paths leading through the lush forest and to overlooks of the Nodaway River floodplain.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Forest/Woodland	1,098		76
Cropland	250		17
Old field	60		4
Other: Roads, Parking Lots, Trails, Campground	40		3
Total	**1,448**		**100**
Stream Frontage		7,392	

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (1995). *Honey Creek forest resource management plan.*

Nelson, P. W. (2010). *The terrestrial natural communities of Missouri*. Missouri: Missouri Natural Areas Committee, Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map
Figure 2: Mesic Loess/Glacial Till Forest Map
Figure 3: Current Land Cover Map
Figure 4: Soils Map

Figure 1: Area Map

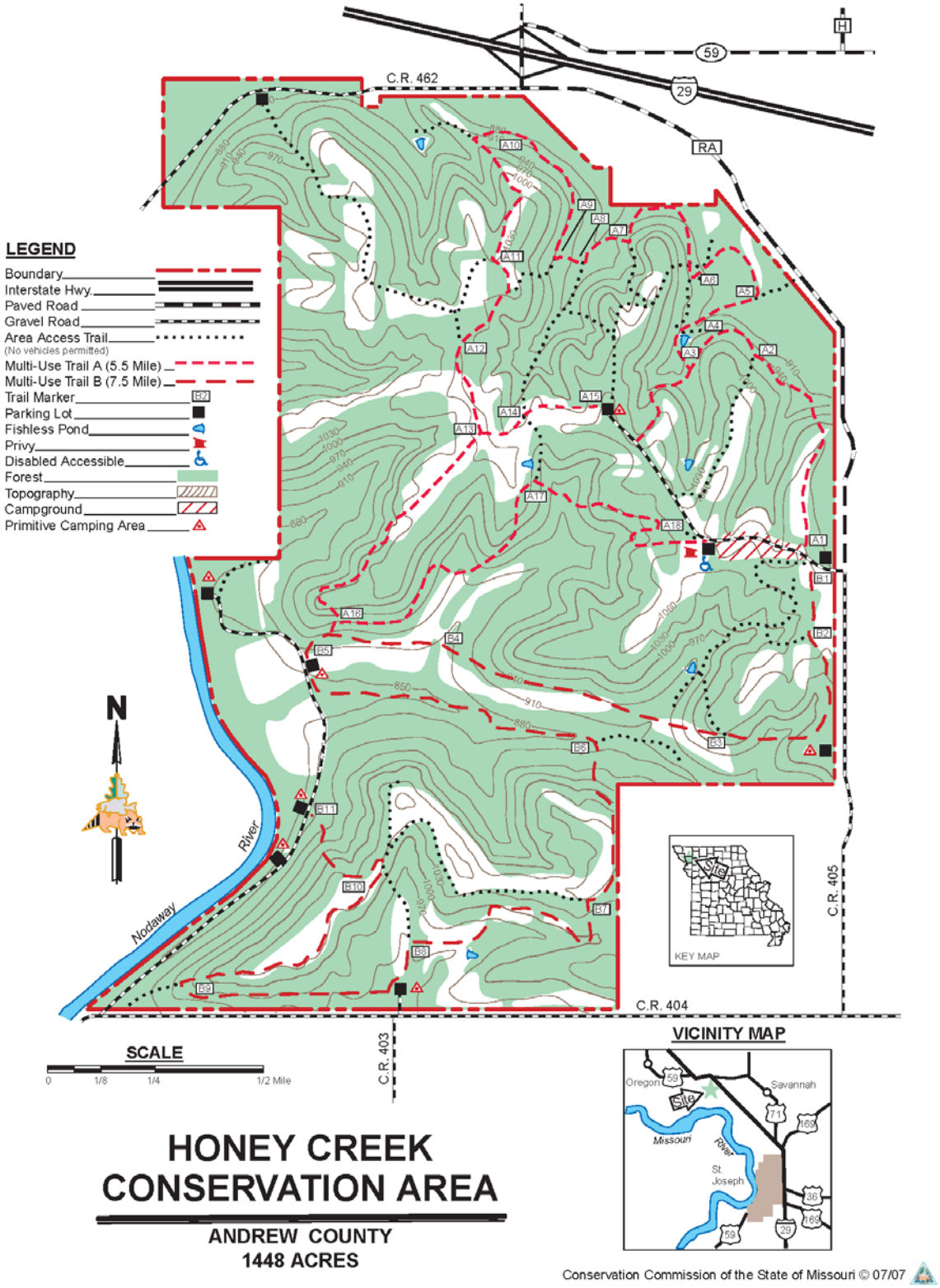
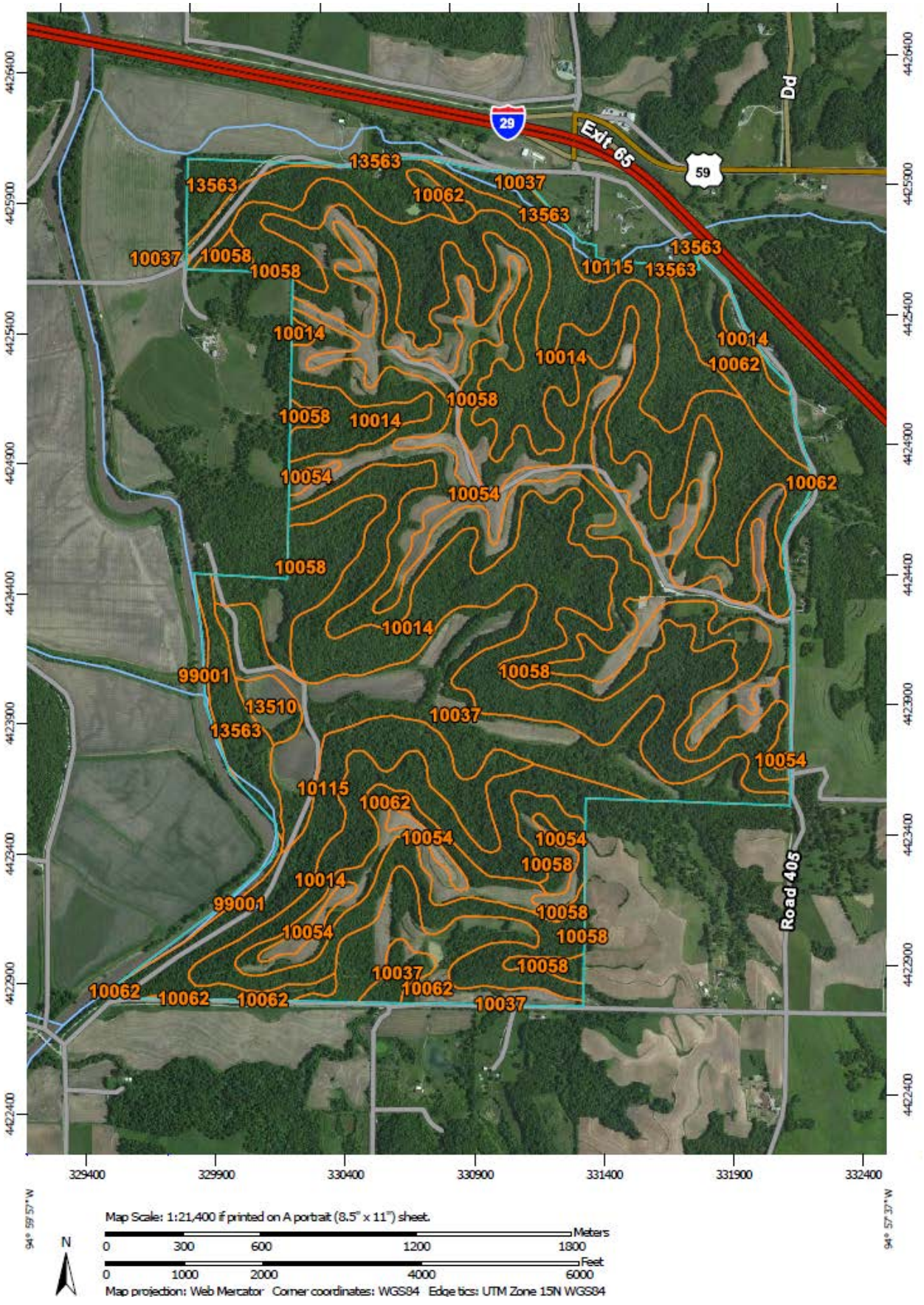


Figure 2: Mesic Loess/Glacial Till Forest

Figure 3: Current Land Cover Map

Figure 4: Soils Map



MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)

- Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils

- Soil Map Unit Polygons
- Soil Map Unit Lines
- Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features

- Blowout
- Borrow Pit
- Clay Spot
- Closed Depression
- Gravel Pit
- Gravelly Spot
- Landfill
- Lava Flow
- Marsh or swamp
- Mine or Quarry
- Miscellaneous Water
- Perennial Water
- Rock Outcrop
- Saline Spot
- Sandy Spot
- Severely Eroded Spot
- Sinkhole
- Slide or Slip
- Sodic Spot
- Spoil Area
- Stony Spot
- Very Stony Spot
- Wet Spot
- Other
- Special Line Features

Water Features

- Streams and Canals

Transportation

- Rails
- Interstate Highways
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

Background

- Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Andrew County, Missouri
Survey Area Data: Version 12, Dec 12, 2013

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Apr 5, 2011—Mar 25, 2012

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

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